

Message Text

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62

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DOTE-00 L-03 DODE-00 PA-04

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5073

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, UK

SUBJECT: ENGINEERING UNION CALLS FOR WIDESPREAD

PROTEST AGAINST INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS COURT

FINE

REF: LONDON'S A-1278

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: THE LEADERSHIP OF THE AMALGAMATED
UNION OF ENGINEERING WORKERS HAS EMPOWERED ALL OF ITS
LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS TO ENGAGE IN STRIKES, OR OTHER
FORMS OF PROTEST AGAINST THE NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL
RELATIONS ACT. THE AUEW'S OPENING SALVO, SUPPORTED BY
THE LONDON DISTRICT OF THE CONFEDERATION OF SHIPBUILDING
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AND ENGINEERING UNIONS WITH WHICH IT IS AFFILIATED, WILL

TAKE PLACE IN LONDON ON NOVEMBER 5 WHERE A ONE-DAY STRIKE HAS ALREADY BEEN CALLED. END SUMMARY

2. THE AUEW HAS ADAMANTLY AND CONTINUOUSLY REFUSED TO ACCEPT THE NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS ACT OR TO UTILIZE ANY OF THE INSTITUTIONS AFFECTED BY THIS LAW. ITS CURRENT CALL FOR ACTIVE AND WIDESPREAD PROTEST, HOWEVER, FLOWS FROM A RECENT 75,000 POUNDS CONTEMPT CITATION BY THE NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS COURT BECAUSE OF THE AUEW'S REFUSAL TO HALT A FIVE WEEK OLD RECOGNITION STRIKE AT THE CON-MECH ENGINEERING WORKS IN WOKING, SURREY. IN ORDER TO OBTAIN PAYMENT OF THE FINE, THE NIRC HAS SEIZED 100,000 POUNDS WHICH THE AUEW LOANED TO ANOTHER INSTITUTION. (THIS IS NOT THE FIRST PENALTY IMPOSED BY THE NIRC ON THE AUEW - REPAIR - .)

3. AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE AUEW, THE LONDON DISTRICT OF

THE CONFEDERATION OF ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING UNIONS TO WHICH THE AUEW IS AFFILIATED, HAS ALREADY DESIGNATED NOVEMBER 5 AS ITS DAY OF PROTEST. THE CONFEDERATION'S LEADERS HOPE TO STOP OR TO SLOW DOWN THE OPERATIONS OF LONDON TRANSPORT, NEWSPAPERS AND CONSIDERABLE SEGMENTS OF THE LONDON AREAS' INDUSTRIAL LIFE. OTHER AUEW UNITS WITHIN THE UNION'S 300 DISTRICTS AROUND THE COUNTRY WILL DECIDE LOCALLY WHETHER TO FOLLOW THE LONDON DISTRICT'S LEAD.

4. COMMENT: THE AUEW HAS ALSO CALLED ON OTHER UNIONS TO JOIN THE PROTEST. SOME SUPPORT IS EXPECTED TO COME FROM OTHER MILITANT UNIONS WITHIN THE TUC, SUCH AS THE MINERS. THE TUC GENERAL COUNCIL, WHICH MET OCTOBER 24, ATTACKED THE INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS ACT AS WELL AS THE 75,000 POUNDS IMPOSED BY THE NIRC, AND CONDEMNED THE FAILURE OF CON-MECH TO RECOGNIZE THE AUEW. HOWEVER, IT STOPPED SHORT OF OFFERING ANY FINANCIAL AID TO THE BELEAGUERED UNION, WHOSE FINANCIAL SITUATION IS BEING SERIOUSLY AFFECTED BY THE COURT'S PENALTIES (SEE REPAIR). THE TUC IS ALLOWING AFFILIATED UNIONS TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TAKE WHATEVER ACTION THEY CONSIDER APPROPRIATE. DESPITE OVERWHELMING OPPOSITION TO THE ACT, THE VAST MAJORITY NUMBER OF TUC AFFILIATES ARE PREPARED TO USE THE NIRC TO PROTECT THEMSELVES. IN A STATEMENT AFTER THE GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING, TUC GENERAL SECRETARY LEN MURRAY REPORTEDLY NOTED THAT THE TUC'S STRONG OPPOSITION TO THE LAW AND ITS SUPPORT FOR THE AUEW SHOULD NOT BE CONSTRUED AS "SUPPORT FOR AUEW (BOYCOTT)

POLICY TOWARDS THE COURT."

ANNENBERG

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